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DESCRIPTION OF THE ARTICLES AND AUTHORITIES.

Articles.	Market.	Description and Authority.	Weighting on Basis of American Product.
Cattle.....	Chicago....	Native steers, top price, average weekly. <i>Board of Trade.</i>	One-sixth of farm value (Department of Agriculture) estimated as annual slaughter.
Hogs.....	Chicago.....	Packers' and shippers' heavy, top, weekly averages. <i>Board of Trade.</i>	One-half farm value.
Glue.....	New York.....	Medium white. <i>Oil, Paint, and Drug Reporter.</i>	Census 1890, other years estimated.
Eggs.....	New York....	Nearby, prime to fancy. <i>Produce Exchange.</i>	Same as butter. [Butter is given previously in the list.]
Pig Iron....	Philadelphia..	No. 1 Anthracite Foundry. <i>Iron Age.</i>	American Iron and Steel Association.

E. H. D.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE ARMY.

The *Report of the Surgeon-General of the Army* to the Secretary of War for the year ending June 30, 1900, contains a tabulation of the annual death rate per thousand among the volunteer and regular troops serving in various countries occupied by the U. S. during 1898 and 1899, of which the following is an abridgement:—

	United States.		Cuba.		Porto Rico.		Philippine Islands.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<i>All Causes.</i>								
Volunteers.....	24.41	7.26	86.00	16.46	52.09	10.53	24.70	29.83
Regulares.....	20.14	8.28	98.16	19.55	41.45	11.35	22.74	31.10
<i>Gunshot Injuries.</i>								
Volunteers.....	.43	.62	11.91	.62	1.86	..	2.86	16.81
Regulares.....	1.21	.57	33.33	.92	1.04	.60	3.10	9.60
<i>Typhoid Fever.</i>								
Volunteers.....	16.59	1.19	22.05	2.72	40.66	2.63	9.28	2.20
Regulares.....	8.79	.99	14.17	5.26	22.80	2.69	7.58	3.58
<i>Yellow Fever.</i>								
Volunteers.....	.01	..	15.88	.12	..	..	..	..
Regulares.....	.08	.11	17.57	4.17	..	..	..	..
<i>Malarial Fever.</i>								
Volunteers.....	1.26	.37	14.77	3.71	2.92	..	1.43	.43
Regulares.....	2.24	.12	13.12	1.67	5.70	..	1.72	1.23

The high death rate rate in Cuba is notable ; even in 1889 although diminished 80 per cent it was excessive. The high rate in the United States during 1898 is partly attributable to imported cases from other regions but not wholly, as one remembers the conditions in certain army camps. The Philippine Island death rate was low during 1898 for troops in a tropical climate ; in 1899 the increase of fatalities from gunshot injuries contributes markedly to raise it nearly one-half. With this exception all the rates were much decreased in 1899 among regulars as well as volunteer, showing the effect of immunity, acclimatization, and natural selection. The regular troops show lower rates from the contagious diseases than the volunteers, whether from better general physical condition or more intelligent sanitary precautions on the part of their officers. Their large excess of mortality from gunshot injuries is a tribute to their gallantry ; but in the Philippines, during 1899, the volunteers appear to have been exposed even more than the regulars.

Typhoid fever was especially prevalent in Porto Rico during 1898 ; while yellow fever and malarial fever attained their maximum in Cuba during the same year. From a set of tables, showing the cases and deaths in each month from certain diseases for 1899, the following table is compiled, those two diseases having been selected which show well-marked seasonal variations : —

CASES PER 1,000 MEAN STRENGTH, 1899.

Months.	Typhoid Fever.				Diarrhœal Diseases.			
	United States.	Cuba.	Porto Rico.	Philippine Islands.	United States.	Cuba.	Porto Rico.	Philippine Islands.
January .....	.9	2.0	1.6	1.9	5.5	27.7	48.6	20.5
February .....	.3	3.1	1.8	.8	4.0	38.0	33.0	16.6
March .....	.4	3.6	.8	1.2	5.1	33.8	32.1	30.0
April .....	.7	7.3	.3	1.6	7.9	37.1	43.5	40.0
May	1.0	5.4	2.5	2.1	9.4	53.5	60.1	85.6
June	1.0	3.6	.6	3.7	12.1	52.8	93.5	97.3
July	1.2	3.6	3.1	2.0	14.0	47.9	52.8	107.4
August	1.1	3.2	.3	2.0	18.7	46.9	37.1	79.4
September	2.5	2.2	.3	2.4	10.2	31.3	44.5	54.5
October .....	.7	1.3	1.0	1.6	6.8	31.4	42.5	44.4
November .....	.5	1.3	1.1	1.4	3.6	25.1	33.8	34.1
December .....	.3	1.5	.3	1.3	3.1	20.6	35.6	28.9

It will be noted that typhoid morbidity in the United States rises regularly from a minimum in February to a maximum in September, while in Cuba the minimum is in October, and the maximum in April, forming almost a complementary curve. In Porto Rico and the Philippines the curve would be less smooth, but in both cases the highest rates lie between May and July, with the smaller values at the end of the year. The curve for diarrhoeal diseases would be exactly similar but somewhat more even on account of the greater number of cases. The final tables at the end of the Surgeon-General's report furnish striking evidence of the dangers of tropical service in the comparison of various rates with those of the army for the decade, 1888-1897. Thus the admissions for diseases per 1000 mean strength of the total army were 2006 in 1898, 1987 in 1899, and 893 in the previous decade. The death rates from all diseases were 25.0, 11.8, and 4.5 for the corresponding periods. The admission rates for typhoid fever were 141.6, 20.7, and 4.9; for yellow fever they were 7.9, 2.5, and .03; for intermittent malarial fever they were 413.7, 391.1, and 62.8.

C.-E. A. W.

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

The *Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Ireland* for 1899 contains, like all the English blue-books, much valuable material. Of special interest is the tabulation of marriages according to the mode of celebration, and the ratios of the same to the corresponding estimated populations, because such data are rarely obtainable. The marriage rate for Roman Catholics has ranged from 4.04 to 4.62 since 1889, with an average of 4.34. The corresponding average rate for members of the church of Ireland and Protestants is 6.12, with extremes of 5.80 and 6.53. The reviewer is at a loss to say whether this striking and constant discrepancy is due to some error in the collection of data or whether it indicates some correlation between religious faith and racial character, or economic conditions. A curious difference in seasonal distribution is brought out in the table giving the marriages by quarterly periods. For Roman Catholics the equivalent annual rate for the four quarters of the year for ten years,